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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT To: NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING JORRITSMA, Ruurd **OF A CHANGE** Nederlandsch Octrooibureau Scheveningseweg 82 (PCT Rule 92bis.1 and P.O. Box 29720 Administrative Instructions, Section 422) NL-2502 LS The Hague PAYS-BAS Date of mailing (day/month/year) 24 May 2002 (24.05.02) Applicant's or agent's file reference IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION BO 42687 International application No. International filing date (day/month/year) PCT/NL00/00456 29 June 2000 (29.06.00) 1. The following indications appeared on record concerning: X the applicant the agent the common representative the inventor State of Nationality State of Residence Name and Address NL SNIJDERS, Manon, Elisabeth, Hendrika Telephone No. Condorhorst 96 NL-2317 AV Leiden Netherlands Facsimile No. Teleprinter No. 2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning: the address the nationality the person the name the residence State of Nationality State of Residence Name and Address NL NL SNIJDERS, Manon, Elisabeth, Hendrika Telephone No. Buitendijklaan 5 NL-2353 SC Leiderdorp Facsimile No. Netherlands Teleprinter No. 3. Further observations, if necessary: 4. A copy of this notification has been sent to: the receiving Office the designated Offices concerned the International Searching Authority the elected Offices concerned the International Preliminary Examining Authority other: Authorized officer The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes Ki-Nam HA 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35 Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

• •	-	nt's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTIO		otification of Transmittal of International inary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
BO 4268					
Internationa		•	International filing date (day/r	iontn/year)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29/06/1999
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Applicant HEINEK	EN TE	ECHNICAL SERVICES	S B.V.		
		tional preliminary exami mitted to the applicant a		ared by this	International Preliminary Examining Authority
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b (s	een ar see Ru	mended and are the bas	sis for this report and/or she of the Administrative Inst	ets containing	ption, claims and/or drawings which have g rectifications made before this Authority er the PCT).
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111				, inventive s	tep and industrial applicability
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VI	_	Certain documents cite			
VII		Certain defects in the in	nternational application		
VIII		Certain observations or	n the international applicatio	า	
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International application No. PCT/NL00/00456

I. Basis of the report

1.	. With regard to the elements of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)): Description, pages:							
	4-6		as originally filed					
	1-3	,3a	as received on	01/08/2001	with letter of	01/08/2001		
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	1-1	2	as received on	01/08/2001	with letter of	01/08/2001		
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2.	lang	guage in which the	guage, all the elements marked international application was file	ed, unless othe	erwise indicated unde	r this item.		
	ine	ise elements were a	available or furnished to this Au	monty in the it	nowing language. ,	WINCH IS.		
		the language of a	translation furnished for the pur	poses of the i	nternational search (u	nder Rule 23.1(b)).		
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3.			eleotide and/or amino acid sec y examination was carried out o					
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			t the subsequently furnished wr pplication as filed has been furn		e listing does not go b	eyond the disclosure in		
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4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:



International application No. PCT/NL00/00456

		the description,	pages:		
		the claims,	Nos.:		
		the drawings,	sheets:		
5.					ome of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):
		(Any replacement she report.)	eet contaii	ning such	amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this
6.	Add	itional observations, if	necessar	y:	
٧.		soned statement un tions and explanatio			ith regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; h statement
1.	Stat	ement			
	Nov	elty (N)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-12
	Inve	ntive step (IS)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-12
	Indu	strial applicability (IA)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-12
2.	Cita	tions and explanations	S		

see separate sheet

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

- 1. The most relevant state of the art is illustrated by WO-A-97/34794, which discloses a flexible container according to the preamble of claim 1 and a method of filling such a container.
- 2. It is the object of the present invention to provide a flexible container and a method for the filling thereof with which uniform filling is possible without parts of the container prematurely becoming trapped between the walls of an outer container. Furthermore, it should be possible, while filling, to establish whether the filling process meets predetermined quality requirements.
- 3. These objects are achieved by a flexible container according to claim 1 and a filling method according to claim 9. In the WO document, the disclosed partitioning means are formed by permanent welds (43). Furthermore, the filling of the bag is facilitated by a special folding pattern using a flexible tube-shaped cover. In the documents GB-A-2 194 512 and FR-A-2 566 740 rigid elements are used for a proper unfolding during filling of the bag. These documents do not suggest the construction of the present invention, which is simpler and more effective.
 Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 1 and 9 is new and inventive and these
 - Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 1 and 9 is new and inventive and these claims meet the requirements of Article 33 (2) and (3) PCT.
- 4. Since claims 2 to 8 and 10 to 12 are dependent on claim 1 respectively 10, these claims also meet the requirements of the same Article.

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Flexible container made of film material and filling method for filling such a container with a fluid substance

The invention relates to a flexible container made of film material for containing a fluid substance and to a filling method for the filling thereof. Such a container for containing carbonated drinks, such as beer, is disclosed in Netherlands Patent Application no. 1 009 654, filed on 15 July 1998 in the name of the Applicant. The known flexible container, or bag, is made of film material and is provided with a dispenser tube located between the front and back layers of film and a plastic filler cap connected to said dispenser tube. After the flexible container has been introduced in the rolled-up state into a relatively rigid outer container, the drink, such as, for example, beer, can be introduced into the flexible container via the filler cap. The flexible container unfolds until it is in contact with the inside wall of the rigid container. After filling, a dispensing line can be connected to the filler cap by the user (consumer) and the drink can be dispensed from the bag by applying an overpressure within the rigid container.

To prevent the bag filled with drink being damaged during use or transport it is important that when it is completely filled this bag is in close contact with the inside wall of the rigid container. It has been found when filling the bag that, under the influence of gravity, the lowest parts of the bag fill more rapidly than other parts and become trapped prematurely in contact with the inside wall of the rigid container. As a result the bag is not able to unfold in the desired uniform manner and high stresses can be generated. This can be problematical in particular in the area where the bag is attached to the filler cap if the bag is filled in the upright position, in which case the highest point is formed by the filler cap. Furthermore, as a result of the non-uniform unfolding of the bag, shut-off areas can form, as a result of which the bag is not completely filled.

It is therefore an aim of the present invention to provide a flexible container or bag and a method for the filling thereof with which uniform filling is possible without parts of the bag prematurely becoming trapped between the walls of the rigid outer container.

A further aim of the present invention is to provide a bag with which a high fill rate can be achieved and with which it can be easily established while filling whether the filling process meets predetermined quality requirements.

To this end the flexible container according to the invention is characterised in that it comprises film storage means which delimit a first compartment of the container and which

release a second compartment when a predetermined degree of filling of the first compartment is reached.

As a result of dividing the flexible container into sub-compartments it is possible to achieve successive controlled and localised filling of each compartment and, consequently, uniform film distribution. With this arrangement the shape which the bag assumes during filling is no longer determined exclusively by gravity. After the first compartment, that, for example, can comprise a central cylindrical volume, has been filled, a pressure is built up therein such that the film storage means are released. As a result the access to the second compartment is opened up, so that this compartment is then able to fill with drink. It has been found that using the bag according to the present invention uniform filling of the bag can be obtained at high fill rates, whilst at the same time uniform contact of the filled bag with the wall of the rigid, outer container can be obtained. As a result the bag is adequately supported during use and transport and the risk of damage is reduced.

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In this application "fluid substance" means a substance with which a certain degree of flow is possible, such as a fluid, a paste or a granulate. The fluid can comprise a drink, for example a carbonated drink, such as beer. In this case a pressure of approximately 1 bar prevails in the bag during filling and a pressure of approximately 2 bar prevails in the rigid container. The paste can be a food product, such as tomato puree, or any other paste.

According to one variant of the present invention the film storage means can be formed by closure lines in the film material, such as, for example, fold lines or join lines along which the front and back film layers of the bag are joined to one another. According to another variant the film storage means are formed by part of the container that has been tucked inside itself from an upper end or lower end or from the longitudinal edges.

In one embodiment which is to be preferred the film storage means comprise closure lines which essentially extend from the top to the bottom of the container, along which closure lines a front film layer of the container is essentially sealed in contact with the back film layer of the container. The closure lines can be formed by gluing or sealing the film layers, but are preferably formed in that the container has been folded double along the closure lines, a first layer of the film material folded double being attached via means offering resistance to a second layer of the film material folded double. The means offering resistance can be formed by adhesive between the folded film layers, sealing of the film layers or by adhesive tape. During filling the means offering resistance give way and controlled unfolding of the bag takes place, without contact with the wall and without

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accumulation of the fluid substance in the lower part of the bag, so that a uniform distribution of the film over the wall of the outer, rigid container will be obtained.

As a result of the controlled unfolding of the flexible container, not only are high fill rates (12 litres per minute or higher) obtained when filling the flexible container, but it is also possible to sample the fill pressure and/or flow rate during filling, for example with the aid of a computer, the fill pressure and/or flow rate changing when one sub-compartment unfolds. By detecting a change in the fill pressure and/or flow rate it can be ascertained with certainty that all sub-compartments of the flexible container have unfolded, this enabling simple quality monitoring.

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A few embodiments of a flexible container and a filling method according to the present invention will be explained in more detail with reference to the appended drawing. In the drawing:

Figure 1 shows a longitudinal section of a bag according to the present invention provided with a filler cap, accommodated in a relatively rigid outer container;

Figure 2 shows a detail of the filler cap attached to the bag during the filling process;

Figures 3 - 6 show various stages in the folding of a bag according to the invention;

Figures 7 and 8 show side views of two alternative embodiments of film storage means according to the present invention formed by folding, respectively, an upper end and a lower end of the bag inwards;

Figure 9 shows a diagrammatic plan view of film storage means formed by folding the longitudinal sides of the bag inwards; and

Figure 10 shows a graph of the flow rate of the fluid (beer) when filling.

Figure 1 shows an assembly 1 of a relatively rigid outer container 2 with a flexible container, or bag, 3 accommodated therein. The bag 3 is fixed in a sealed manner at an upper end to a fixing lip 4 which forms part of a plastic filler cap 5. The filler cap 5 is attached to a neck 7 of the rigid outer container 2 via an annular shoulder 6 such that it is clamped. The filler cap 5 is further connected to a dispenser tube 8 which extends into the flexible bag 3 to prevent the front and back walls coming into contact with one another. A fill opening 9 in the filler cap 5 is closed off. The fill opening 9 is made in the end of a shut-off valve 10 resiliently accommodated in the filler cap 5. The fill opening 9 is exposed by placing a filler tube 12 from a filling installation on the shut-off valve 10 and pushing the latter downwards, as is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows an enlarged view of the filler cap 5 of the flexible bag 3 and shows how

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- 1. Flexible container (3, 30, 34) made of film material for containing a fluid substance, comprising a fill opening (9) as well as film storage means which delimit a first and a second compartment (17, 18, 19, 32, 33, 38, 42, 43) of the container and which release the second compartment (18, 19, 32, 33, 42, 43) when a predetermined degree of filling of the first compartment (17, 32, 33, 38) is reached.
- 2. Flexible container (3) according to Claim 1, characterised in that the film storage means comprise two closure lines (13, 14) which extend essentially from the top to the bottom of the container, along which closure lines (13, 14) a front film layer of the container (3) is in essentially in fluid-tight contact with a back film layer of the container.
- 3. Flexible container (3) according to Claim 2, characterised in that the front film layer is joined to the back film layer along the sealing lines (13, 14).
 - 4. Flexible container (3) according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the container is folded double along the closure lines (13, 14), a first layer of the film material folded double being attached via means offering resistance (23, 24) to a second layer of the film material folded double.
 - 5. Flexible container (3) according to Claim 4, characterised in that the means offering resistance (23, 24) comprise adhesive tape.
- 25 6. Flexible container (3) according to Claim 4 or 5, characterised in that on either side of a centre line of the container two side strips (20, 21) of the container are folded double along fold lines (13, 14) located parallel to the centre line.
- 7. Flexible container (30, 34) according to Claim 1, characterised in that the film storage means are formed in that a portion of the film material has been displaced from the peripheral edge of the container to the centre of the container and is positioned between wall sections located opposite one another.

8. Flexible container (3, 30, 34) according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the fill opening is provided with a shut-off valve (10), air being at least partially removed from the container.

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- 5 9. Filling method for filling a flexible container (3, 30, 34) with a fluid substance, comprising the following steps:
 - placing the flexible container (3, 30, 34) in a relatively rigid container (2), the flexible container being provided with film storage means which delimit a first and a second compartment (17, 18, 19, 32, 33, 38, 42, 43) of the container and which release the second compartment (18, 19, 32, 33, 42, 43) when a predetermined degree of filling of the first compartment (17, 32, 33, 38) is reached,
 - filling the first compartment with the fluid substance via a fill opening (9) in the container (3, 30, 34),
 - activating the film storage means via the fill pressure such that the second compartment (18, 19, 32, 33, 42, 43) is released, and
 - filling the second compartment (18, 19, 32, 33, 42, 43) until the film material of the flexible container (3, 30, 34) is at least largely in contact with the wall of the rigid container (2).
- 20 10. Method according to Claim 9, characterised in that air is removed from the flexible container before the flexible container (3, 30, 34) is inserted in the rigid container (2).
 - 11. Method according to Claim 9 or 10, characterised in that the flexible container (3, 30, 34) is folded double along closure lines (13, 14), the container sections folded double being attached to one another by means offering resistance (23, 24, 40, 41) which can be released by fill pressure.
 - 12. Method according to Claim 9, 10 or 11, characterised in that during filling the flow rate and/or the fill pressure are measured and in that a change in rate and/or fill pressure is determined on activation of the film storage means.

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ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

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Published:

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B65D77/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) $IPC\ 7\ B65D\ B65B$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97 34794 A (ALFAPAC) 25 September 1997 (1997-09-25) page 5, line 13 -page 8, line 30 page 9, line 16 -page 10, line 25; figures 1-6,9	1,2,8-10
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X	GB 2 194 512 A (T.P.T.LTD) 9 March 1988 (1988-03-09) page 1, line 90 - line 114 page 2, line 45 -page 3, line 19; figures 1-5	1,7,9

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
 Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "8." document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
18 October 2000	27/10/2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Martens, L

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	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	Relevant to claim No.
ategory °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Helevant to claim No.
(DE 38 39 697 A (NITTEL) 31 May 1990 (1990-05-31) the whole document	1,9
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DE 29009	98	Α	17-07-1980	NONE		

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REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

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International Filing Date 2 9 JUN 2000 2 9, 05, 00

PURE ALL YOOR DE INDUSTRIÈLE EIGENDON PRODUITERNATIONAL APPLICATION

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference BO 42687 (if desired) (12 characters maximum) Flexible container made in film material and filling method for filling such a container with a Box No. I fluid substance APPLICANT Box No. II Name and address: (Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State This person is also inventor. of residence is indicated below.) Telephone No. Heineken Technical Services B.V. Facsimile No Postbus 510 2380 BB ZOETERWOUDE Teleprinter No. The Netherlands State (that is, country) of residence: State (that is, country) of nationality: The Netherlands (NL) The Netherlands (NL) the States indicated in the Supplemental Box the United States of America only all designated States except the United States of America all designated This person is applicant States for the purposes of: FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S) Box No. III Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State This person is: of residence is indicated below.) applicant only : BAAL VAN applicant and inventor : Patrick Michael inventor only (If this check-box : 4e Binnenvestgracht 10 is marked, do not fill in below.) : 2311 WT LEIDEN State (that is, country) of residence: State (that is, country) of nationality: The Netherlands (NL) THe Netherlands (NL) the United States of America only the States indicated in all designated States except the United States of America ali designated This person is applicant the Supplemental Box for the purposes of Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet. AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE Box No. IV The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf common representative agent of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.) Telephone No. 70 3527500 JORRITSMA, Ruurd et al Facsimile No. 70 3527528 Nederlandsch Octrooibureau Scheveningseweg 82, P.O. Box 29720 Teleprinter No. NL-2502 LS THE HAGUE THE NETHERLANDS

Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the

HEESEMANS Erwin Jan Philipsweg 30 2802 NZ GOUDA Line (that is country) of nationality: The Nether lands (NL) Is person is applicant only (if this che supplicant only if this che supplicant is supplicant only if this che supplicant is not she supplicant only if this che supplicant only if this che supplicant is not she supplicant only if this che supplicant is not she supplicant only if this che supplicant is not she supplicant only if this che supplicant is not she supplicant only if this che supplicant is not she supplicant only if this che supplicant is not she supplicant only if this che supplicant is not she supplicant only if this che supplicant only is substituted below.) Name and address: (Family name followed by given name: for chegate supplicant only if the s	ontinuation of Box No. III		PPLICANT(S) A				
HEESEMANS Erwin Jan Philipsweg 30 2802 NZ GOUDA Little (that is, country) of residence: The Netherlands (NL) In sperson is applicant and inventor In sperson is applicant and inventor States (that is, country) of residence: In earlies and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official supplicant only (If this country) of residence is indicated below. HOEK Manfred Cornelis Kraanstraat 41 3056 HD ROTTERDAM The Netherlands (NL) This person is applicant States (ML) This person is applicant and inventor Inventor only (If this che is marked, do not fill in the supplicant only given name; for a legal entity, full official inventor only (If this che is marked, do not fill in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked, do not fill in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and not fill in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only in the supplicant only inventor only (If this che is marked and only inventor only (If this che is marked and only (If this che is marked and only inventor only (If this che is marked and only inventor only (If this che is marked and only inventor only (If this che is marked and only inventor only (If this che is marked and only inventor only (If this che is marked and only inventor only (If this che is marked and on						in the re	equest.
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Continuation of Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER)	
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Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on another continuation	on sheet.

ZA_South Africa ■ KP_ Democratic People's Republic of Korea Check-boxes reserved for designating States which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet: KR- Republic of Korea DZ Algeria LC_ Saint Lucia AG Antiqua and Barbuda

UZ

LK Sri Lanka Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation (including fees) must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Uzbekistan

Viet Nam

Yugoslavia

Sheet No. 5. PCT/NT_ 0/00456 Further priority clai indicated in the Supplemental Box. PRIORITY CLAIM Box No. VI Number Where earlier application is: Filing date of earlier application of earlier application national application: regional application:* international application: (day/month/year) regional Office receiving Office country 9. 05. item (1) 1012474 THe Netherlands 29 June 1999 item (2) item (3) The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the 1 purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office) identified above as item(s): * Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, it is mandatory to indicate in the Supplemental Box at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)). See Supplemental Box. Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority): Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate Country (or regional Office) Number Date (day/month/year) the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used): Marh 2000 SN 33618 NL The Netherlands EPO ISA / Box No. VIII CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING This international application contains This international application is accompanied by the item(s) marked below: the following number of sheets: 1. X fee calculation sheet request 2.

separate signed power of attorney description (excluding 7 3. copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any: sequence listing part) 2 4. Statement explaining lack of signature claims abstract 1 5. priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s): 5 6. Translation of international application into (language): drawings sequence listing part 7. Separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material of description 8. nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing in computer readable form 20 Copy search report 9. other (specify): Total number of sheets: Language of filing of the Figure of the drawings which 3 should accompany the abstract: international application: English SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request). JORRITSMA, R.

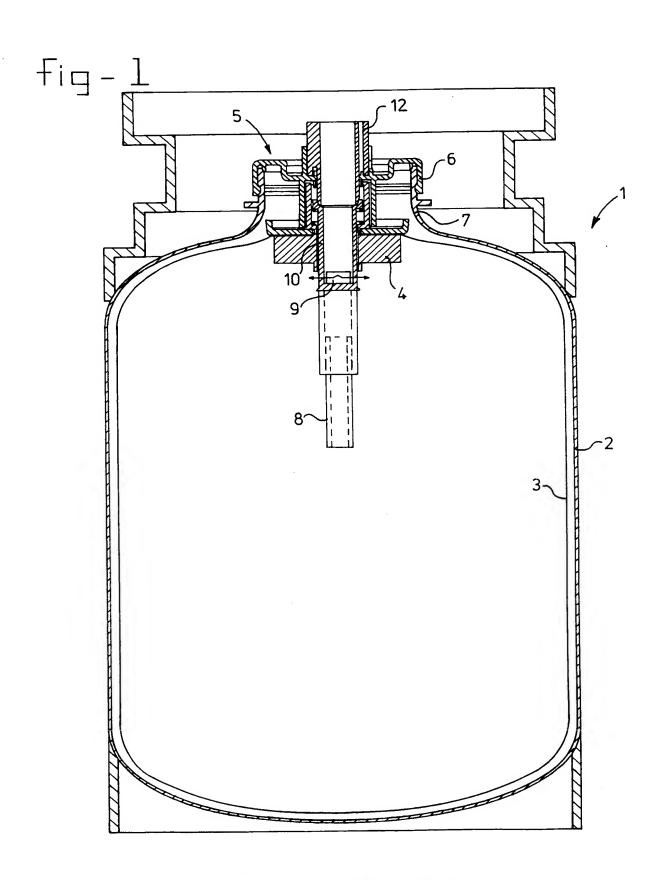
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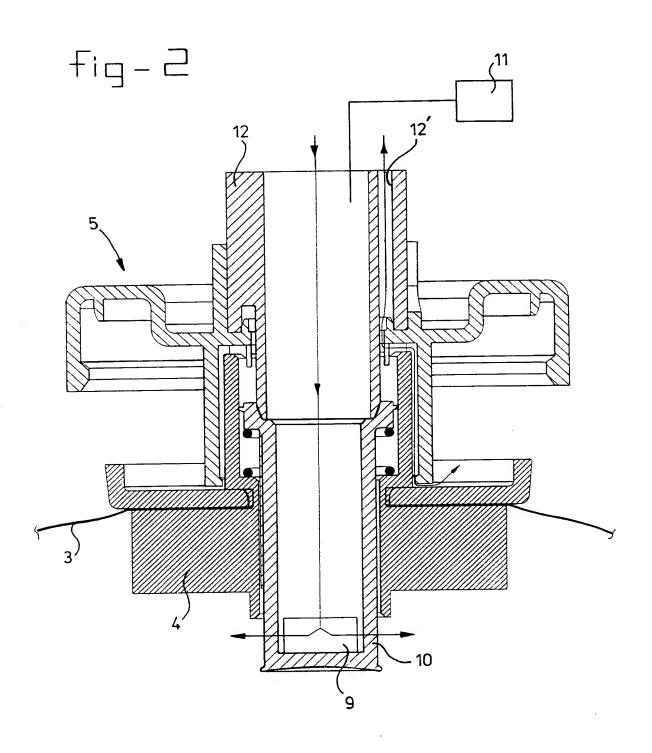
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4.	Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):		not received:
5.	International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA /	6. Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid.	

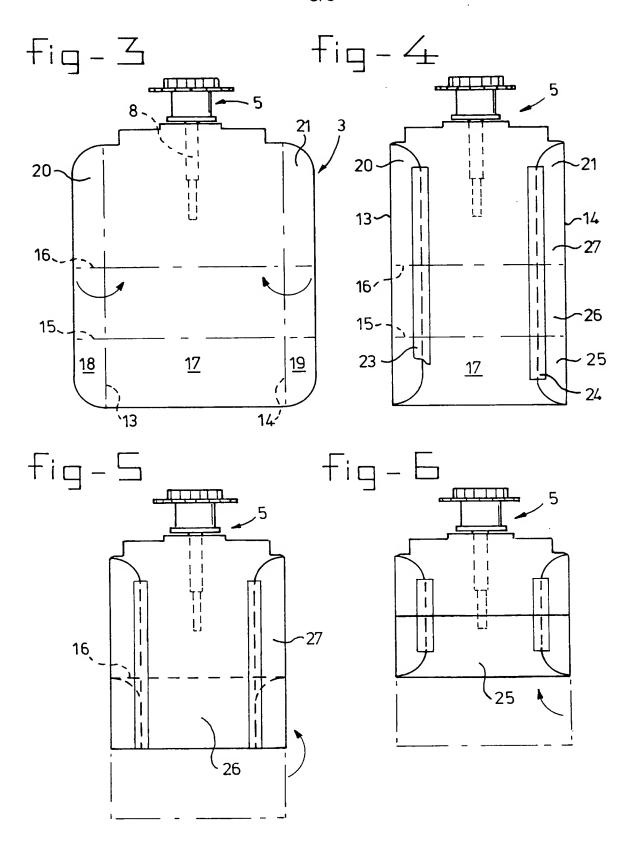
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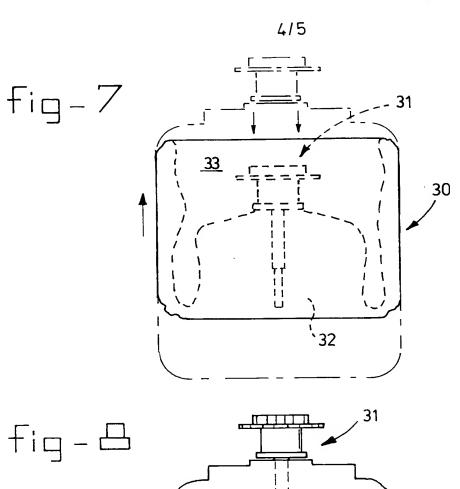
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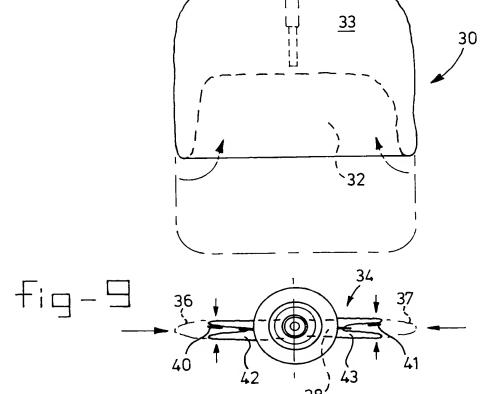
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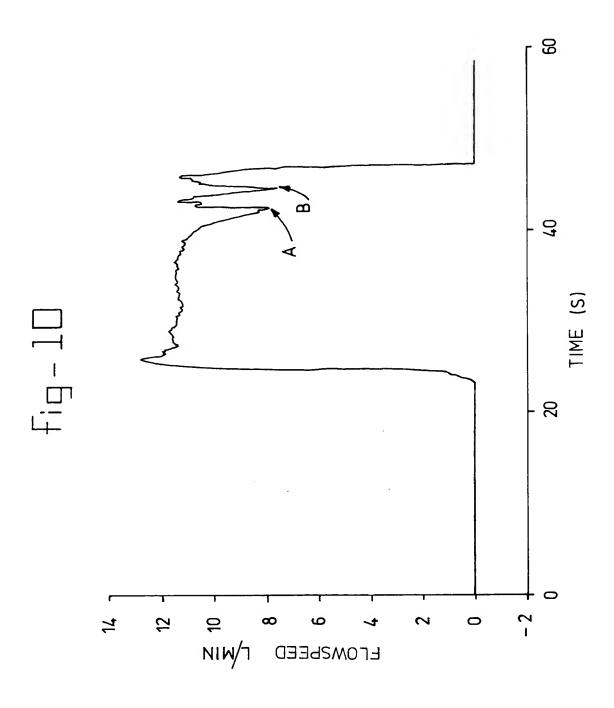








SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)



Flexibele heuder uit foliemateriaal alsmede vulmethode voor het met een vloeibare stof vullen van een dergelijke houder.

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De uitvinding heeft betrekking op een flexibele houder uit foliemateriaal voor het bevatten van een vloeibare stof alsmede op een vulmethode voor het vullen daarvan. Een dergelijke houder voor het bevatten van koolzuurboudende drank, zoals bier, is bekend uit Nederlandse octrooiaanvrage nr. 1009654, ingediend op 15 juli 1998 ten name van aanvraagster. De bekende flexibele houder, of zak, is gevormd uit foliemateriaal en is voorzien van een tussen de voorste en achterste folielagen gelegen afgiftebuis en een daarmee verbonden kunststof vulkop. Nadat de flexibele houder in opgerolde toestand in een relatief stijve buitenste houder is gebracht, kan via de vulkop de drank, zoals bijvoorbeeld bier, in de flexibele heuder worden gebracht. Deze ontvouwt zich totdat hij aanligt tegen de binnenwand van de stijve houder. Na het vullen kan door de gebruiker (consument) een afgifte eiding op de vulkop worden aangesloten en kan door het aanbrengen van een overdrak binnen de stijve houder, de drank uit de zak worden afgegeven.

Om te voorkomen dat de met drank gevulde zak tijdens gebruik of transport wordt beschadigd, is het van belang dat deze in zijn volledig gevulde toestand nauwsluitend aanligt tegen de binnenwand van de stijve houder. Bij het vullen van de zak is gebleken dat onder invloed van de zwaartekracht de laagst gelegen delen van de zak zich sneller vulden dan andere delen en vroegtijdig klemmend contact maken met de binnenwand van de stijve houder. Hierdoor kan de zak zich niet op de gewenste gelijkmatige wijze ontplooien en kunnen zich grote sprinningen ontwikkelen. Dit kan met name problematisch zijn in het gebied waar de zak is bevestigd aan de vulkop, wanneer de zak in de rechtop geplaatste stand wordt gevuld, waarbij het hoogste punt wordt gevormd door de vulkop. Verder kunnen zich door het ongelijkmatig ontvouwen van de zak afgesloten gebieden vormen waardoor de zak niet volledig wordt gevuld.

Het is daarom een doel van de onderhavige uitvinding te voorzien in een flexibele houder of zak en in een werkwijze voor het vullen daarvan, waarbij een gelijkmatig vullen mogelijk is zonder dat delen van de zak zich vroegtijdig inklemmen tussen de wanden van de stijve buitenste houder. Het is een verder doel van de onderhavige uitvinding te voorzien in een zak waarmee een hoge vulsnelheid kan worden behaald en

waarbij tijdens het vullen op eenvoudige wijze kan worden vastgesteld of het vulproces aan vooraf bepaalde kwaliteitseisen voldoet.

Hiertoe is de flexibele houder volgens de uitvinding gekenmerkt doordat deze folieopslagmiddelen omvat die een eerste compartiment van de houder begrenzen en die bij het bereiken van een vooraf bepaalde vulgraad van het eerste compartiment een tweede compartiment vrijgeven.

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Door de flexibele houder te verdelen in deelcompartimenten, kan opeenvolgend per compartiment een gecontroleerde en gelokaliseerde afvulling, en daardoor een gelijkmatige folieverdeling, worden verkregen. Hierbij wordt de vorm die de zak tijdens het vullen aanneemt niet langer uitsluitend door de zwaartekracht bepaald. Nadat het eerste compartiment, dat bijvoorbeeld een centraal cilindrisch volume kan omvatten, is afgevuld, wordt daarin een zodanige druk opgebouwd dat de folieopslagmiddelen worden vrijgegeven. Hierdoor wordt de toegang naar het tweede compartiment ontsloten zodat dit compartiment zich vervolgens met drank kan vullen. Gebleken is dat met de zak volgens onderhavige uitvinding bij hoge vulsnelheden gelijkmatig afvullen van de zak kan worden verkregen, terwijl tegelijkertijd een gelijkmatig aanliggen van de gevulde zak tegen de wand van de stijve, buitenste houder kan worden verkregen. Hierdoor wordt de zak op adequate wijze ondersteund tijdens gebruik en transport en wordt de kans op beschadigingen verkleind.

Met "vloeibare stof" wordt hierin bedoeld een stof waarbij een zekere mate van stroming mogelijk is, zoals een vloeistof, een pasta of een granulaat. De vloeistof kan een drank bevatten, bijvoorbeeld een koolzuurhoudende drank, zoals bier. In dit geval heerst in de zak een druk van ca 1 bar, tijdens het vullen en heerst in de stijve houder een druk van ca 2 bar. De pasta kan een voe dingsproduct omvatten, zoals tomatenpuree, of iedere andere pasta.

De folieopslagmiddelen kunnen volgens één variant van de onderhavige uitvinding worden gevormd door afdichtlijnen in het foliemateriaal, zoals bijvoorbeeld vouwlijnen of verbindingslijnen waarlangs de voorste en achterste folielagen van de zak onderling zijn verbonden. Volgens een andere variant zijn de folieopslagmiddelen gevormd door een deel van de houder dat vanaf een bovenzijde, onderzijde of vanaf de langsranden naar buiten is gestulpt.

In een uitvoeringsvorm die de voorkeur verdient omvatten de folieopslagmiddelen afdichtlijnen die zich in hoofdzaak vanaf de bevenzijde naar de onderzijde van de houder uitstrekken, langs welke afdichtlijnen een voorste folielaag van de houder in hoofdzaak afdichtend aanligt tegen de achterste folielaag van de houder. De afdichtlijnen kunnen zijn gevormd door lijmen of sealen van de folielagen, maar zijn bij voorkeur gevormd doordat de houden langs de afdichtlijnen is dubbelgevouwen, waarbij een eerste laag van het dubbelgevouwen foliemateriaal via weerstandsmiddelen tegen een tweede laag van het dubbelgevouwen foliemateriaal is bevestigd. De weerstandsmiddelen kunnen zijn gevormel door hechtmiddel tussen de gevouwen folielagen, sealen van de folielagen of door kleefband. Tijdens het vullen worden de weerstandsmiddelen verbroken en vindt een gecontroleerd ontvouwen van de zak plaats, zonder contact met de wand en zonder ophoping van de vloeibare stof in het onderste deel van de zak zodat een gelijkmatige virdeling van de folie langs de wand van de buitenste, stijve houder zal worden verkregen.

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Bij het vullen van de flexibele houder kunnen door het gecontroleerd ontvouwen van de flexibele houder niet alleen hoge vulsnelheden worden pehaald (12 liter per minuut of hoger), maar is het tevens mogelijk om de vuldruk er/of stroomsnelheid tijdens het vullen te bemonsteren, bijvoorbeeld met behulp van een computer, waarbij bij het ontvouwen van een deelcompartiment de vuldruk en/of stroomsnelheid zal veranderen. Door het waarnemen van een verandering in de vuldruk en/of stroomsnelheid kan zekerheid worden verkregen dat alle deelcompartimenten van de flexibele houder zich hebben ontvouwen, zodat hiermee op eenvoudige wijze een kwaliteitsbepaling kan plaatsvinden.

Enkele uitvoeringsvormen van een flexibele houder en een vulmethode volgens de onderhavige uitvinding zullen nader worden tougelicht aan de hand van de bijgevoegde tekening. In de tekening toont:

figuur 1 een langsdoorsnede van een zak volgens de onderhavige uitvinding voorzien van een vulkop, opgenomen in een relatief stijve buitenste houder,

figuur 2 een detail van de aan de zak bevestigde vulkop tijdens het vulproces;

figuur 3-6 verschillende stadia van het vouwen van een zak volgens de uitvinding;

figuur 7 en 8 zijaanzichten van twee alternatieve uitvoeringsvormen van 30 folieopslagmiddelen volgens de onderhavige uitvinding gevormd door het naar binnen vouwen van respectievelijk een boven- en een onderzijde van de zak,

figuur 9 een schematisch bovenaanzicht van foliecpslagmiddelen gevormd door het naar binnen vouwen van de langszijden van de zak, en

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figuur 10 een grafiek van de stroomsnelheid van de vloeistof (bier) bij het vullen.

Figuur 1 toont een samenstel 1 van een relatief stijve buitenste houder 2 met daarin opgenomen een flexibele houder, of zak, 3. De zak 3 is aan een bovenzijde afdichtend bevestigd aan een bevestigingslip 4 die deel uitmaakt van een kunststof vulkop 5. Via een ringvormige schouder 6 is de vulkop 6 klemmend bevestigd aan een hals 7 van de stijve buitenste houder 2. De vulkop 5 is verder verbonden met een afgiftebuis 8 die zich in de flexibele zak 3 uitstrekt om te voorkomen dat door tegen elkaar aanliggen van de voorste en achterste wanden, eer vulopening 9 van de vulkop 5 wordt afgesloten. De vulopening 9 is aangebracht in het uiteinde van een verend in de vulkop 5 opgenomen afsluiter 10. Door een vulbuis 12 van een vulinstallatie op de afsluiter 10 te plaatsen en deze in neerwaartse richting te drukken, wordt de vulopening 9 vrijgegeven, zoals wordt getoond in figuur 2.

Figuur 2 toont een vergrote weergave van de vulk op 5 van de flexibele zak 3 en toont hoe door het neerdrukken van de afsluiter 10, vloeistof via de vulbuis 12 in de zak 3 kan worden gebracht. Hierbij kan lucht via ontluchting sopening 12' van de vulbuis 12 ontsnappen vanuit de tussen de zak 3 en de buitenste houder 2 gelegen ruimte. Verder kan via de ontluchtingsopening 12' een inwendige cruk in de buitenste houder 2 worden aangebracht van bijvoorbeeld 2 bar, bij een vuldruk in de zak 3 van ca. 1 bar voor het geval dat de vloeistof bier omvat. In de gevulde toestand ligt de zak 3 langs zijn nagenoeg gehele buitenoppervlak aan tegen de wan i van de buitenste houder 2.

Met 11 is schematisch een opneeminrichting weer gegeven voor het meten van de stroomsnelheid en/of de druk in de vulbuis 12. De inrichting 11 kan een stromings- of dranksensor omvatten die is verbonden met een persone computer.

Om tijdens het vullen te voorkomen dat bepaalde delen van de zak 3 vroegtijdig klemmend aangrijpen op de wand van de buitenste houder 2, is in de uitvoeringsvorm volgens figuren 3 tot en met 6 een vouwpatroon in de zak aangebracht.

Figuur 3 toont een zijaanzicht van de zak 3 in zijn platte toestand waarbij via de vulkop 5 en de afgistebuis 8 lucht uit de zak die is verwijderd zodat deze geheel vlak is. De zak 3 is gevormd uit een meerlaags solie die bijvoorbeeld een aluminiumpolyetheen laminaat omvat met een dikte van cu. 70 µm a 100 µm. In de uitvoeringsvorm volgens siguur 3 zijn een viertal vouwlijnen 13, 14, 15 en 16

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aangegeven waarlangs het foliemateriaal wordt gevouwen. Door de verticale vouwlijnen 13 en 14 wordt een eerste centraal compartin ent 17 van de zak 3 gevormd en twee zijcompartimenten 18, 19. Door het omvouwen van de zijstroken 20, 21 langs de vouwlijnen 13, 14 worden afdichtlijnen gevormd langs de vouwlijnen 13, 14, zodat de door de vulkop 5 in het centrale compartiment 17 ingebrachte vloeistof niet naar de zijcompartimenten 18, 19 kan treden. Zoals getoord in figuur 4, worden de omgevouwen zijstroken 20, 21 op hun plaats gehouden door langs de vrije randen daarvan aangebrachte kleefbanden 23, 24. Vervolgens wordt het onderste deel 25 in figuur 4 langs de vouwlijn 15 naar achteren uit het vlak van tekening gevouwen, tegen het middelste deel 26. Het middelste deel 26 wordt in figuur 5 langs de vouwlijn 16 uit het vlak van tekening naar voren gevouwen tegen het bovenste deel 27, zodat de configuratie volgens figuur 6 wordt verkregen. De volgens figuur 6 gevouwen zak 3 wordt opgerold om door de hals 7 van de buitenste houder 2 te kunnen worden ingebracht. Vervolgens wordt een vulbuis 12 aangesloten op de vulkop 5 en ontvouwt de zak 3 zich bij het vullen eerst in de langsrichting tot de configuratie die wordt getoond in figuur 4. Daarna wordt allereerst het centrale compartiment 17 vanaf de onderzijde tot aan de afgistebuis 8 met vloeistof gevuld, waarbij wordt voorkomen dat de zijstroken 20, 21, die door de kleefbanden 23, 24 op hun plaats worden gehouden, aangrijpen op de wand van buitenste houder 2. Nadat het centrale compartiment 17 is gevuld en de folie in de langsrichting over de gehele hoogte van de buitenste houder is verdeeld, zal de druk daarin toenemen tot een waarde waarbij de kleefbanden 23, 24 loslaten of scheuren, zodat de compartimenten 18 en 19 worden vrijgegeven en zich

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Op deze wijze kunnen relatief hoge vulsnelheden, zoals bijvoorbeeld 12 liter per minuut, worden verkregen en wordt een gelijkmatige volumetoename van de zak 3 bewerkstelligd zonder dat spanningen, met name op de bevestigingslip 4 van de vulkop 5, te hoog oplopen. Door het gelijkmatig vullen van de zak 3 volgens de hierboven beschreven methode wordt bereikt dat de zak 3 gelijkmatig komt aan te liggen tegen de buitenste houder 2, zodat de zak 3 in gevulde toestand adequaat wordt ondersteund en tegen beschadigen wordt beschermd.

daaropvolgend kunnen vullen met vloeistof.

Voor dikkere folies, die zich door hun stugheid bij hogere drukken ontvouwen, dient de hechtkracht van de kleefbanden 23,24 gruter te zijn, en dienen sterkere hechtbanden te worden toegepast.

Alternatieve folieopslagmiddelen voor het vormen van verschillende compartimenten 17, 18 en 19 volgens figuren 3 tot en met 6 zullen voor de deskundige duidelijk zijn. Zo kunnen bijvoorbeeld de kleefbanden 23, 24 worden vervangen door hechtmiddel of smeltlassen in het foliemateriaal. Het is tevens mogelijk om de voorste en achterste lagen foliemateriaal van de zak 3 in platte toestand, zoals getoond in figuur 3, langs verticale lijnen 13, 14 langs onderbroken of ononderbroken lijnen tegen elkaar te smelten, met een zodanige sterkte dat wanneer het centrale compartiment 17 gevuld is, de smeltafdichtingen 13, 14 onder de druk bezwijken en de zijdelingse compartimenten 18, 19 vrijgeven.

Het is tevens mogelijk om de zak te voorzien van elastiek in de dwarsrichting of om de zak in een elastische mantel of kous te plaatsen.

Alternatieve uitvoeringsvormen van folieopslagmiddelen voor het gelijkmatig ontvouwen van een zak 30 met een vulkop 31 worden getoond in figuren 7 en 8. Hierbij is respectievelijk het bovenste en het onderste deel 32 van de zak 30 "binnenstebuiten" gekeerd zodat het deel 32 zich tusser een voorste en achterste laag foliemateriaal van het bovenste of onderste compartiment 33 bevindt. In figuur 7 zal bij het vullen het bovenste compartiment 32 naar boven stulpen, waarna het onderste compartiment 33 wordt gevuld. In figuur 8 zal bij het vullen van de zak 30 het bovenste compartiment 33 eerst worden gevuld waarna, bij het bereiken van een vooraf bepaalde vuldruk, het onderste compartiment 32 naar buiten zal worden gestulpt totdat ook het onderste compartiment 32 zich heeft gevuld.

Figuur 9 toont een verdere alternatieve uitvoeringsvorm waarbij vanaf de met een onderbroken lijn weergegeven zijkanten 36, 37 het materiaal van de zak 34 naar de hartlijn toe is verplaatst zodat zijdelingse compartimen en 42,43 worden verkregen en een centraal compartiment 38. De zijdelingse compartimenten kunnen met lijmpunten 40,41 in de gevouwen toestand zijn gefixeerd. Afhankelijk van de flexibiliteit van de zak 34 kunnen de lijmpunten 40,41 eveneens achterwege worden gelaten. Na het vullen van het centrale compartiment 38 zullen de dubbelgevouwen delen 36, 37 naar buiten toe uitstulpen en zal de zak 34 zijn gevulde configuratie bereiken.

Bij de hierboven beschreven voorbeelden is de zak 30, 34 telkens rechtop geplaatst zodat de vulkop 31, 38 het hoogste punt vormt. Het is tevens mogelijk om de zak volgens onderhavige uitvinding in omgekeerde toe tand te vullen, zodat de vulkop

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31, 38 het laagste punt vormt, waarbij dezelfde voordelen als hierboven zijn besproken worden verkregen.

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Figuur 10 toont tenslotte een grafiek van een met de inrichting 11 volgens de figuur 2 bepaalde stroomsnelheid tegen de tijd bij het vullen van een zak met een inhoud van 4 liter met bier waarbij de vuldruk 1 bar bedraagt en waarbij de druk binnen de stijve houder 2 bar bedraagt. De zak was gevouwen volgens het patroon dat is getoond in figuren 3 tot en met 6. Bij het vullen van het centrale compartiment 17 neemt na een in hoofdzaak constante stroomsnelheid, deze sterk af tot punt A waarna de stroomsnelheid sprongsgewijs toeneemt. Dit houdt in dat één van de kleefbanden 23, 24 is losgesprongen en één van de zijcompartimenten 18 of 19 is vrijgegeven. Bij punt B in de grafiek volgens figuur 10 wordt het tweede zijcompartiment vrijgegeven waarna het vulproces relatief snel wordt beëindigd Bij een perfect symmetrische configuratie van de compartimenten zullen punten A en B samenvallen. Door het waarnemen van het moment waarop het zijcompartiment zich ontvouwt door het vaststellen van de pulsvormige veranderingen in de stroomsnelheid volgens figuur 10, kan worden bepaald dat de zijcompartimenten zich hebben ontvouwen en dat op basis daarvan het vulproces volgens specificaties is verlopen.

Conclusies

1. Flexibele houder (3,30,34) uit foliemateriaal voor het bevatten van een vloeibare stof, omvattende een vulopening (9), alsmede folie-opslagmiddelen die een eerste en een tweede compartiment (17,18,19,32,33,38,42,43) van de houder begrenzen en die bij het bereiken van een vooraf bepaalde vulgraad van het eerste compartiment (17,32,33,38) het tweede compartiment (18,19,32,33,42,43) vrijgeven.

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- 2. Flexibele houder (3) volgens conclusie 1, met het kenmerk, dat de folieopslagmiddelen twee afdichtlijnen (13,14) omvatten die zich in hoofdzaak vanaf de
 bovenzijde naar een onderzijde van de houder uitstrekken, langs welke afdichtlijnen
 (13,14) een voorste folielaag van de houder (3) in hoofdzaak afdichtend aanligt tegen
 een achterste folielaag van de houder.
- 15 3. Flexibele houder (3) volgens conclusie 2, met het kenmerk, dat de voorste folielaag langs de afdichtlijnen (13,14) is verbonden met de achterste folielaag.
- 4. Flexibele houder (3) volgens conclusie 1 of 2, <u>met het kenmerk</u>, dat de houder langs de afdichtlijnen (13,14) is dubbel gevouwen, waarbij een eerste laag van het dubbelgevouwen foliemateriaal via weerstandsmiddeler (23,24) tegen een tweede laag van het dubbelgevouwen foliemateriaal is bevestigd.
 - 5 Flexibele houder (3) volgens conclusie 4, met het kenmerk, dat de weerstandsmiddelen (23,24) kleefband omvatten.
 - 6. Flexibele houder (3) volgens conclusie 4 of 5, met het kenmerk, dat aan weerszijden van een hartlijn van de houder twee zijstreken (20,21) van de houder zijn dubbel gevouwen langs parallel aan de hartlijn gelegen vouwlijnen (13,14).
 - 7. Flexibele houder (30,34) volgens conclusie 1, met het kenmerk, dat de folieopslagmiddelen worden gevormd doordat een dee van het foliemateriaal vanaf de omtreksrand van de houder naar het centrum van de houder is verplaatst en tussen tegenover elkaar gelegen wanddelen is geplaatst.

8. Flexibele houder (3,30,34) volgens een der voorgaande conclusies, met het kenmerk, dat de vulopening is voorzien van een afsluiter (5), waarbij lucht althans gedeeltelijk uit de houder is verwijderd.

9. Vulmethode voor het met een vloeibare stof vullen van een flexibele houder (3,30,34), omvattende de stappen van:

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plaatsing van de flexibele houder (3,30,34) in een relatief stijve houder (2), waarbij de flexibele houder is voorzien van folie-opslagmiddelen die een eerste en een tweede compartiment (17,18,19,32,33,38,42,43) van de houder begrenzen en die bij het bereiken van een vooraf bepaalde vulgraad van het eerste compartiment (17,32,33,38) het tweede compartiment (18,19,32,33,42,43) vrijgeven,

- het via een vulopening (9) van de houder (3,30,34) vullen van het eerste compartiment met de vloeibare stof,

15 - het via de vuldruk activeren van de folie-opslagmiddelen zodat het tweede compartiment (18,19,32,33,42,43) wordt vrijgegeven, en

- het vullen van het tweede compartiment (18,19,32,33,42,43) totdat het foliemateriaal van de flexibele houder (3,30,34) ten minste grotendeels aanligt tegen de wand van de stijve houder (2).

10 Methode volgens conclusie 9, met het kemmerk, dat voorafgaand aan het inbrengen van de flexibele houder (3,30,34) in de stijve houder (2), lucht uit de flexibele houder wordt verwijderd.

- 25 11. Methode volgens conclusie 9 of 10, met het kenmerk, dat de flexibele houder (3,30,34) langs afdichtlijnen (13,14) wordt dubbelgevouwen, waarbij de dubbelgevouwen houderdelen met door vuldruk vrij te geven weerstandsmiddelen (23,24,40,41) op elkaar worden bevestigd.
- 30 12. Methode volgens conclusie 9, 10 of 11, met het kenmerk, dat tijdens het vullen de stroomsnelheid en/of de vuldruk wordt gemeten en dat een snelheids- en/of vuldrukverandering bij activering van de folie-opslagmiddelen wordt vastgesteld.

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Uittreksel

De aanvrage heeft betrekking op een flexibele houder (3) uit foliemateriaal voor het bevatten van dranken, omvattende een vulopening, alsmede folie-opslagmiddelen die een eerste compartiment en een tweede compartiment (17,18,19) van de houder begrenzen en die bij het bereiken van een vooraf bepaalde vulgraad van het eerste compartiment (17) een tweede compartiment (18,19) vrijgeven.

Door de folie-opslagmiddelen, die bijvoorbeeld kuimen worden gevormd door de zijstroken (20,21) in de langsrichting dubbel te vouwen en met behulp van kleefband, hechtmiddel of smeltlassen van het foliemateriaal op hun plaats te houden, kan een gelijkmatig afvullen van het eerste compartiment worden verkregen waarbij de flexibele houder grotendeels vrijblijft van de wanden van de daaromheen gelegen buitenste houder. Wanneer het eerste compartiment gevuld (17) is, worden de folie-opslagmiddelen door toenemen van de vuldruk vrijgegeven en kan het tweede compartiment (18,19) worden gevuld zodat een gelijkmatig aanliggen van de flexibele houder tegen de wand van de buitenste, stijve houder wordt verkregen. Met de flexibele houder en met de vulmethode volgens de onderhavige uitvinding kunnen hoge vulsnelheden worden bereikt en wordt voorkomen dat spanningen in bepaalde delen van de flexibele houder te hoog oplopen.

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Fig. 3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference		f Transmittal of International Search Report	
B0 42687	ACTION: (Form PC1/ISA/2	20) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)	
PCT/NL 00/00456	29/06/2000	29/06/1999	
Applicant			
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according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Auth ansmitted to the International Bureau.	iority and is transmitted to the applicant	
This International Search Report consists It is also accompanied by	of a total of sheets. a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.	
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Basis of the report With regard to the language, the	international coarch was serviced out on the base	in of the international popularities in the	
	international search was carried out on the bas ess otherwise indicated under this item.	is of the international application in the	
the international search w Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	as carried out on the basis of a translation of the	ne international application furnished to this	
		ternational application, the international search	
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filed together with the inte	rnational application in computer readable form	n.	
furnished subsequently to	this Authority in written form.		
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	osequently furnished written sequence listing do s filed has been furnished.	oes not go beyond the disclosure in the	
the statement that the info furnished	ormation recorded in computer readable form is	s identical to the written sequence listing has been	
2. Certain claims were four	nd unsearchable (See Box I).		
3. Unity of invention is lac	king (see Box II).		
4. With regard to the title,			
the text is approved as su	bmitted by the applicant.		
. =	hed by this Authority to read as follows:		
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5. With regard to the abstract ,			
the text is approved as su	bmitted by the applicant.		
	hed, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authorited at the date of mailing of this international search rep		
6. The figure of the drawings to be publ		3	
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because the applicant faile	ed to suggest a figure.		
because this figure better	characterizes the invention.		

INTERMITIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 865D77/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Minimum documentation searched} & \text{(classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \text{IPC} & 7 & \text{B65D} & \text{B65B} \\ \end{array}$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Х	WO 97 34794 A (ALFAPAC) 25 September 1997 (1997-09-25) page 5, line 13 -page 8, line 30 page 9, line 16 -page 10, line 25; figures 1-6,9	1,2,8-10
Х	FR 2 566 740 A (FAGNIART) 3 January 1986 (1986-01-03) the whole document	1,8-10
X .	GB 2 194 512 A (T.P.T.LTD) 9 March 1988 (1988-03-09) page 1, line 90 - line 114 page 2, line 45 -page 3, line 19; figures 1-5	1,7,9

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
 Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filling date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
18 October 2000	27/10/2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Martens, L

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